

Johns Hopkins Magazine

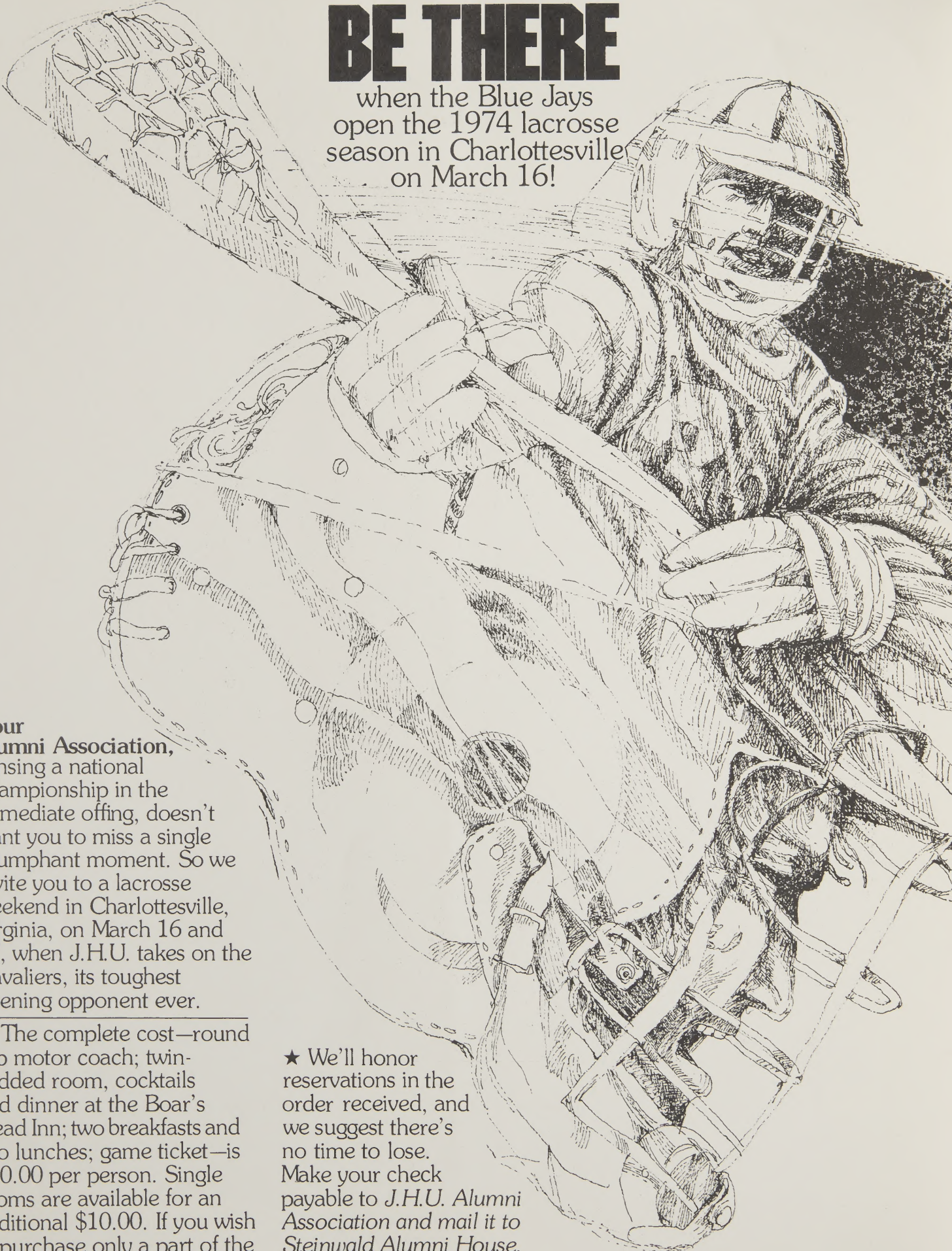
January 1974

Through History with Coins page 6



BE THERE

when the Blue Jays
open the 1974 lacrosse
season in Charlottesville
on March 16!



Your Alumni Association, sensing a national championship in the immediate offing, doesn't want you to miss a single triumphant moment. So we invite you to a lacrosse weekend in Charlottesville, Virginia, on March 16 and 17, when J.H.U. takes on the Cavaliers, its toughest opening opponent ever.

★ The complete cost—round trip motor coach; twin-bedded room, cocktails and dinner at the Boar's Head Inn; two breakfasts and two lunches; game ticket—is \$50.00 per person. Single rooms are available for an additional \$10.00. If you wish to purchase only a part of the package, we will be happy to quote you the cost.

★ We'll honor reservations in the order received, and we suggest there's no time to lose. Make your check payable to *J.H.U. Alumni Association* and mail it to *Steinwald Alumni House, 3211 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md. 21218.*

See you at the first face-off!

Johns Hopkins Magazine

January 1974 Volume XXV Number 1

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We Invite Your

Commentary

Concerning The Importance Of Laughter

"This is no laughing matter," someone said in the Hopkins Club the other day, apropos of the state of this country. I disagreed with him.

We are certainly at a crisis, at a watershed: Now and for the next few years, we will be deciding the fundamental nature of our future government, industry, and society. Whatever comes, it is likely to be a shockingly different world, and now is not a comfortable time to be a thinking person.

That's exactly why we need to laugh. The court jester was a wise man.

There have been all too many learned books about humor, in which it is generally agreed that humor works, in large part, by providing a certain "distance," ironic or otherwise, from the subject. Often distance is achieved by format—parody, or an outrageous ("modest") proposal. But distance is the nub of the matter; a one-liner which strikes the heart of the problem shocks us into the "laughter of recognition." ("Of course I can quit smoking. I've done it hundreds of times.") Laughter induces detachment.

Americans do not, on the whole, value detachment. In fact, in my opinion, we find it rather repulsive. We are romantics. As persons, we would rather be loved than understood, because we're inclined to think anyone who understands us can't love us. On the international

level, we are genuinely shocked and puzzled when any less developed country observes that our gifts—which is how the American people view technical aid and food shipments—demand a quid pro quo. We like to keep the left hand decently unaware of what the right is doing. Historically, we have seldom tried to solve a national problem until it became a crisis, because we don't like to look at problems; to do so seems unloving and unpatriotic. Someone once observed to my mother-in-law that her home state, New Jersey, was agreeable in that it had no personal income taxes, but that the lack of revenue had helped create a terrible system of state roads, education, and hospitals. Her answer was brief and chilly: "I love my state."

But love is not enough, if it ever was, as current events are proving. We don't know yet how grim the reaping will be. But I'd suggest it will be less grim, even now, if we as a people can *face* our problems, and the best way to do that is to laugh at them. Not in spite of them, although that would be a good start, but directly at them.

American humor has a long and proud tradition, from tall tales to songs about prohibition. It is worth remembering, perhaps, that the people who told those tall tales lived in times even more lawless and unsettled than our own. A claim-jumper was no romantic figure, and working on the railroads was brutal. Our ancestors were often hungry and always, by our standards, malnourished. It was a rare family that reared all its

children, and orphans were commonplace until well into this century. Nor was there Social Security.

If Americans could laugh before, so can we now. Russell Baker, MA '49, is on deck helping us laugh at our political troubles, but who will teach us again to laugh at ourselves, at the luxuries we think we need, at our dearest delusions? Will Rogers and Mark Twain, where are you now when we need you most?

"Deem it time—Ed." In other words, the Hopkins palindrome contest is closed. Entries arriving later than January 15 cannot be considered (though they may well be printed). A lot of you have had a lot of fun with palindromes, and we're glad of it. Thank you. —EH

Letters

EDITOR: Johns Hopkins has scored more points in football than any other team in the 104 year history of the sport. (See attached from *Richmond News Leader*). [The attachment was a list of college football scores in which it was solemnly recorded, "Johns Hopkins 333, Towson State 20."] That works out to 5.5 points per minute!

BRUCE G. HOLRAN,
Director of Public Relations,
Franklin and Marshall College

EDITOR: Some staff members and interested persons at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions would like to arrange a marriage! . . . between a fine concert-calibre grand piano presently standing silently in an alumnus' living room (yours?), dreaming of a more glorious life, and Turner Auditorium whose stately walls are now unwarmed by music.

Expensive piano rental makes impossible most recital and chamber music events in this fine new hall. A series of noontime mini-

concerts as well as evening and weekend performances could bring a new dimension to life in the Johns Hopkins Hospital and neighborhood.

We promise the donor of an appropriate piano that we will provide transportation costs, an inscribed commemoration plate on the instrument, complete locked security at all times when it is not in performance use, and permanent residence in Turner Auditorium.

Will the missing bride be found? Contact the Office of the Chaplain, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore 21205.

CLYDE R. SHALLENBERGER,
MED '62,

Director of Chaplain Services,
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore

EDITOR: Basheer K. Nijim's cunningly wrought essay on "The Anachronism that is Israel" (September 1973) contains sins of commission and omission that cannot be permitted to stand uncorrected. Nijim writes that "the desired political sovereignty" (of the Jewish State) "was not based on an existing national land nor on an existing population core." One would think Nijim was talking about creating a Jewish state in the wilds of Africa—a monstrosity, in fact, once seriously broached by the British to the Jews. The well-known facts are, of course, that *Eretz Yisrael*, or Land of Israel, has been a recognized geographical entity with that name since the days of King David at least (ca. 1000 B.C.) and that Jews have inhabited this area *continuously* from those ancient days to the present. . . .

When, during the last century, more Jews came to settle in *Eretz Yisrael*, they did not displace an indigenous population by force of arms or by the kinds of pressures exercised by European powers in building colonial empires. Land was acquired by purchase from land-owners free to sell or not to sell, and Jewish communities were built up in this painstaking and peaceful manner over a period of decades. To call this a record of aggressive, expansionist colonization, as Nijim does, is to commit

mayhem on the English language and on the very process of rational objective thinking itself.

The State of Israel and the territories controlled by it have increased in size since the United Nations brought the State into being in 1948. Every step in this expansion was initiated by the Arabs in disregard of the vain pleas of the Jews to leave things as they were. Nijim's allegory of the poor Arab home-owner defending his stake, and being pushed successively out of yard, garage and home by an aggressive Jewish bully is like the negative of a black and white photo—all the values are reversed. In the real picture, as most people know, it is the Arab nations of the Middle East and of North Africa (about 50 million strong) that have ganged up like a murderous lynch mob trying to prevent a Jewish family (less than 3 millions) from occupying its legally acquired home on the block. . . .

Finally, it is necessary to deal with the falsification implied by Nijim's statement that Israel "... may be a democracy for Jews, but it cannot possibly be an unqualified democracy." Israeli Arabs vote in all elections, belong to the national labor organizations, are paid going wages, can and do hold public office, travel freely throughout the land, and enjoy all the social welfare benefits enjoyed by Jews. They are also free to leave the country if they so will. If this does not meet Nijim's understanding of democracy then that is another word, in addition to "colonization," on which he needs straightening out. . . .

MORRIS GOLDMAN, SCD '53
Bet Dagon, Israel

EDITOR: Stanley A. Blumberg's essay (November 1973) criticizing the Roman Catholic Church for not recognizing the State of Israel might have had more impact had he expounded his thoughts on the subject in the context of the points of view of *both* parties to the Middle East conflict. The idea that one party (Israel, in this case) is beyond reproach in everything it does while the other (the Arabs) is

perennially the "baddy" lends itself to sensational journalism.

N. G. MAASRY, PhD candidate
Johns Hopkins SAIS
Washington, D.C.

The "Commentary" section has been running a continuous debate on the Arab-Israeli situation since last March, and we feel that most points of view have now been represented. The Magazine's staff has learned a great deal from the discussion, and we hope readers have also. But it does seem time to move to a new topic. Does anyone have any strong ideas about Amtrak, or mass transit, or education, or divorce laws, or "busing," or religion, or the rise and fall of American philanthropy? Or about any topic of interest to educated and intelligent persons? (Incidentally, Stanley A. Blumberg is a professional writer, while Stanley E. Blumberg '35 is Hopkins' alumni director.)—Ed.

EDITOR: I notice that Dean George Owen, speaking of "the way man does science," says the following in your March 1973 number:

I suppose the biggest problem is the difference between reality and our representations of experience. This is a problem Immanuel Kant spent a lot of pages trying to discuss. And it will always be a paradox because our discussion of reality always gets confused with reality.

What a piece of confusion—confusion in alleging perpetual confusion in others! The very phrase, "representations of experience," is inapposite unless in autobiography—how will anyone tell whether another has authentically represented his own experience? And how will anyone tell whether the other's "representation of experience" duplicates reality?

But the main reason why I write you this is what Dean Owen says next, about Kant—his "trying to discuss" something. I suppose M. Owen doesn't know of "the Copernican revolution" Kant wrought in that regard. And this brings to mind a remark by Schopenhauer (who, said Thomas Mann, "speaks

in accents of experience and all-embracing knowledge that horrify and bewitch us by their power and veracity"). Schopenhauer said: "he who has not mastered the Kantian philosophy, whatever else he may have studied, is, as it were, in a state of innocence" (*World as Will and Idea*, preface). Goethe, I believe, likened reading the *Critique of Pure Reason* to entering a brilliantly illuminated salon. The homage paid to Kant by the great surpasses that paid to any other thinker since Aristotle.

Some time ago, under the inspiration of Johns Hopkins' distinguished philosopher, A. O. Lovejoy—what a difference! Subintellectualism and the courting of the commonplace, so widely met in education now, were hardly dreamt of then.

PETER A. CARMICHAEL '27
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

EDITOR: Among the first honorees of the Women's Hall of Fame at Eisenhower College there are four who were associated in one way or another with Johns Hopkins University: Florence Sabin, Alice Hamilton, Helen Brooke Taussig, and Rachel Carson.

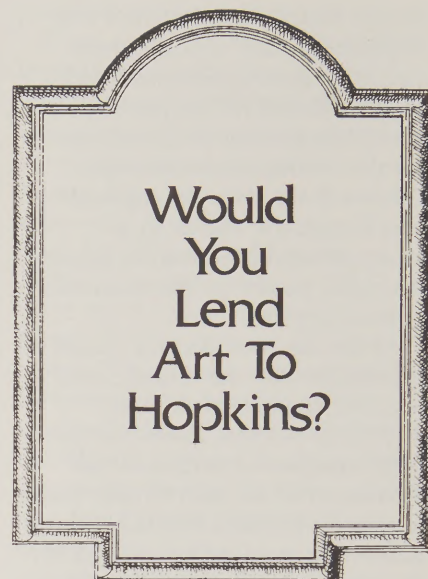
The Women's Hall of Fame was dedicated yesterday.

I am sorry that I cannot give you accurate data on each of these women. I know that Dr. Sabin received her medical degree at Hopkins; Alice Hamilton studied at the medical school but whether she took a degree there I don't know; I think that Rachel Carson took an MA in biology at Hopkins; I never knew much about Dr. Taussig. [See page 40, September Magazine.]

At any rate, I was pleased to hear the Johns Hopkins University referred to so frequently.

C. GORDON POST '25, PhD '33
Aurora, NY

EDITOR: Dr. Ramey's last but one sentence in the September number was most curious. It was "We will have equality when a female schlemiel moves ahead as fast as a male schemiel." But don't the current government improved policy of discriminating in favor of



In commemoration
of the university's Centennial
in 1976,
The Baltimore Museum
of Art would like
to organize an exhibition
of works of art
owned by alumni
and other members
of the university family.
In preparation for
this exhibition,
we would like to know
of works of art
available for loan on this
occasion. Please notify the
Office of Centennial Planning,
Johns Hopkins University,
Barton Hall 105,
Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

female HOMINES SAPIENTES in junior faculty appointments and, therefore, against male HOMINES SAPIENTES just the sort of encouragement of the advancement of female schlemiels that Doctrix Ramey would applaud? [*sic*] I hope she (he or it) is aware of this beachhead of female schlemiel power on the continent of male pig-ism.

As for the good doctrix's scientific insights on the testosteronic petrification of male HOMO SAPIENS vascular ducts, she (he or it) has provided instant and obvious evidence that female (male or neuter) HOMO SAPIENS think differently from other varieties of the species. I, for one, fail to understand what estrogenic durability has got to do with Equal Justice Before Law.

And yet, one cannot dismiss the fulgurations of a female Einstein who made it beyond associate professor to professor . . . or is it female professor?

W. J. KENT, graduate student
The Humanities Center
Johns Hopkins University

More Comments

I Remember: Wood, Thompson, And Prohibition

By J. TRUMAN THOMPSON '17, professor emeritus of civil engineering and recipient of the Johns Hopkins Heritage Award for exceptional devotion to the university. His fellow in crime ROBERT WILLIAMS WOOD, a world-famous physicist, was professor of experimental physics at Hopkins from 1901-38 and professor emeritus until his death in 1955.

I came to the university as a teacher after three years of sub-professional

work in engineering. I had graduated from the first class to undergo the four year rigors of the new School of Engineering. After a sojourn with the American Expeditionary Forces as an Engineer Officer and a brief experience with Black & Decker, I was fortunate enough to land in the Civil Engineering Department here where, before long, I was in charge of a laboratory which dealt with the examination of materials which play a part in design and construction, such as soils, steel, concrete, bituminous products and so forth. I was glad I had been able to squeeze into my Hopkins program a course in Organic Chemistry.

In this course I became aware of the surefire reaction of ethyl acetate and sodium hydroxide, which theoretically should produce ethyl alcohol and sodium acetate. They could then be separated by distillation. Time was an important parameter for two reasons. It was estimated that it would take eighty years for the reaction to bear significant results, and ethyl alcohol—that's the potable kind—was in great demand then because we were suffering under National Prohibition. Curiosity was also a factor because I developed an insatiable desire to reduce the eighty year sentence imposed by the 18th amendment to a much shorter term.

But try as I might I had no success. The two chemicals, of greatly differing specific gravities, sullenly remained two separate layers in a Pyrex flask with its column of glass beads for refluxing.

One day I happened to mention the problem to Dr. Wood, who expressed an interest in the project because he claimed to possess the formula for the botanicals used in distilling Gordon Gin. And I believed him for he gave me a small phial of "gin drops" which proved vastly superior to the drug store variety. The idea, once implanted in his fertile mind, led him to visit my laboratory where we formulated a felony based on an hypothesis and hope. He would supply the drops and I the forbidden elixir.

But again success evaded our many efforts until, late one after-

noon when we were about to throw in the towel, we decided to revive our downcast spirits. We found some laboratory alcohol, mixed it with distilled water—80 proof by hydrometer measure—and "presto" we had vodka; for that's how it's made even today. And then, after a brief moment of relaxation, Wood said that we might as well give the apparatus a shot too. Whereupon he poured a bit of alcohol into the top of the reluctant bead column and, unbelievably, the reaction took place—not in eighty years but in about eight seconds and so violently that the retort belched up through the bead column and into the attached condenser—a small torrent of alcohol—which covered Wood's hand and somehow ignited.

I shall never forget the sight of my "partner," the recipient of honors from all over the world, dancing around my laboratory trying to extinguish the flaming catalyst which he had just discovered.

The chemicals we had used were of laboratory purity and expensive, but it was not long before we discovered a cheap paint solvent which was largely potable ethyl alcohol, denatured with a small amount of sodium acetate to make it commercially available; and that Babbitts Lye for household use could be purchased in any grocery store and was almost pure sodium hydroxide.

I can only say in conclusion that the company of Wood and Thompson, never incorporated for profit, prospered and only folded up when bootlegger prices had dropped to a level which encouraged us to dissolve our joint venture, but never the memory of the fun and excitement we shared in operating it.

On the Free Association Of A Small Country With A Large Power

By RAFAEL HERNÁNDEZ COLÓN '56, governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Early in 1973—on July 25—the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

celebrated its 21st anniversary. In English we call it the Commonwealth. In Spanish, more accurately, we call it the *Estado Libre Asociado*—literally, Associated Free State.

This means that Puerto Rico's political status is that of a largely self-governing, autonomous political and cultural entity voluntarily associated with the United States.

Commonwealth is not an intermediate step toward statehood or independence. It is a third concept tailored to fit the special circumstances of Puerto Rico. In a world that has seldom known anything but nations and colonies, this political creation appears an original and exciting concept with international and historical impact. Many years hence this unique relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico may continue to intrigue political scientists and to serve the best interests of both parties.

In any case, the Commonwealth concept has yet to reach its limitations. And indeed, we expect a number of urgent changes in the years immediately ahead. Currently we are taking steps toward achieving maximum self-government without weakening our four basic ties to the U.S. They are a common defense, common market, common currency, and the indissoluble bond of the citizenship of the United States.

To state it more simply, we want to run our own affairs while at the same time fulfilling our responsibilities as American citizens.

From the beginning of its brief history, future changes in the Commonwealth arrangement were anticipated. The Puerto Rican Constitution which 21 years ago created the Commonwealth relationship with the U.S. declares in part:

"The people of Puerto Rico reserve the right to propose and accept modification in the terms of its relations with the United States of America in order that these relations may at all times be the expression of the agreement freely entered into between the people of Puerto Rico

and the United States of America."

Moreover, on July 23, 1967, a plebiscite was held in which more than 60 per cent of the voters rejected statehood and independence and endorsed the Commonwealth and its continuing development. When I took office last January I therefore took steps to implement this mandate by proposing the formation of an ad hoc committee charged with exploring areas of possible growth (i.e., further steps towards maximum self-government). An Ad Hoc Committee of 14 members has now been created. President Nixon named seven members and I, as Governor of the Commonwealth, appointed the other seven. The committee's task is to address itself to specific practical problems created by a diversity of federal laws and regulations applied to Puerto Rico. In some areas we would seek to have the federal authority transferred to the Commonwealth; in others, we would like to share in that authority. For instance, we see no sense at all in having to comply with environmental regulations applying to interstate rivers when all of our rivers flow into the sea—the nearest U.S. state being some 1,000 miles away. Other areas of concern include maritime and airline rates, labor laws, and trade agreements—all of which directly affect our well-being. In short, we expect the committee to study all areas for an integral development of the Commonwealth.

In all these efforts, Puerto Rico has no intention of gaining any economic or other advantage over any state or territory of the union. Instead, we feel strongly that a developing Commonwealth can only benefit the best interests of the people of the United States as well as Puerto Rico, as it has now for more than two decades.

Moreover, all of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc study group will be presented to the President, the Congress, the Legislature of Puerto Rico and the Governor of Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico, additionally, any and all proposed changes will be submitted to the

people in a referendum.

Now, as the Ad Hoc Committee begins its deliberations, it is important for all of us to remember that after more than four centuries of colonial status, the people of Puerto Rico have for two decades assumed a new dignity and political pride. When the Commonwealth came into being in 1952 there was a special elation felt by Puerto Ricans, because the Commonwealth concept was essentially a Puerto Rican creation, partly tracing back to the goals sought by the island's popular Autonomous movement during the latter part of the 19th Century. And the Commonwealth Constitution was quickly ratified in Washington, because it also embraced basic American principles of freedom and democracy.

Finally, for whatever international or historical impact it may have, the United States and Puerto Rico continue to demonstrate after 21 years that a small country can permanently link itself to a great power and still maintain its self-government, its cultural identity, its political dignity, and its right to self-determination.

Stopping by Pumps On a Sunday Evening

Whose pumps these are I think I know.

His house is in the suburbs, though;
He will not see me stopping here
To fill my tank with Sunoco.

My little Volks must think it queer
To stop with no attendant here
Between the Coke and Pepsi signs
The darkest Sunday of the year.

His carburetor gives a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the rill
Of flowing gas, the tank's intake.

The pumps are lovely, dark and still,
But I must traverse dale and hill
With miles to go before I fill
With miles to go before I fill.

—WILLIAM SISLER,
PhD candidate in Classics

Through History with Coins

By CARL CARLSON



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY was honored in September 1973: For the first time since the International Numismatic Congress was formed it chose to hold its meeting in the United States, and the collection of the university was one of the four numismatic collections it chose to visit. A special exhibition of rarities from the university's collection was prepared at Evergreen House for the event, and was visited by 275 delegates to the Congress, representing numismatic scholarship from more than 30 countries. Our exhibit contained some of the greatest rarities in world numismatics, not in U.S. coinage alone, though our American collection is one of the finest known for rarity and quality. Some of the specimens shown had not been seen since the great European auction sales of the 1920's.

Non-collectors sometimes wonder why anyone considers coins important enough to collect (except as money) and why some coins bring such outrageously high prices (two U.S. silver dollars have brought \$110,000 each in sales in recent months). There are many reasons for collecting and studying coins, not all of them applicable to every collection. They range from normal human collecting mania—a seemingly universal characteristic of the species—to investment purposes for later sale at a profit, and on to the more scholarly interest in coins as objects of beauty and historic value. Coins display a compact series of designs which can often be used by art historians in dating major art works; they also provide contemporary records of peoples and civilizations which often exist only through such evidence. The reflection in coins of many events, trends, and even personalities makes them particularly important to some aspects of research into man's past. This, in turn, explains the fitness of a major university as owner and guardian of a major coin collection.

Initiated in 1880 through the purchase and gift to the university of the collection of Dr. Helbig of Germany by several "gentlemen of Baltimore"—including

T. Harrison Garrett, prominent Baltimore numismatist and early friend of the university—the collection began as a scholarly and research tool for the Classics department: The Helbig coins were exclusively Greek and Roman. In 1908 we received the Buckler collection of Greek, Roman, and Iberian coins, a further aid to the study of archaeology, classical epigraphy, ancient history, and ancient art. Gifts were received from many sources in subsequent years and the collection gradually broadened to include coins of non-classical origin: Byzantine, medieval, European, and eventually American.

Upon his death in 1942, John Work Garrett—diplomat, numismatist, and son of that T. Harrison Garrett who had been our early numismatic benefactor—left his entire coin and book collection to the university, along with the property known as Evergreen House which now houses the university's rare book collection. Mr. Garrett's collection included coins of nearly every country and period up to the early years of this century. Including earlier holdings, his coins, and subsequent gifts—still being received—the collection now comprises some 27,000 coins and is one of the three finest in the country. In some areas, such as U.S. Colonial issues, we are probably unsurpassed, especially in quality. The collection is used for scholarly research by numismatists, Classicists, and art historians from around the world; this function has increased of late through wider knowledge of the size and scope of our holdings, promoted by such events as the International Numismatic Congress and through continuing publication of our coins in numismatic journals.

I have gathered here for illustration and discussion a small selection from our coins, hoping to furnish some idea of the range of our collection and the variety of ways in which coins are important as documents of the past.

Carl Carlson is curator of numismatics for Johns Hopkins University. The photographs are his work.



Early Roman "tripondius," copper and cumbersome. 104 mm.



Silver dekadrachm from Syracuse, carved by Euainetos. 38 mm.



Portrait denarius of Brutus. 19 mm.

Early Greek Coinage

Coinage in the West almost certainly began in Ionia, the western coast of Turkey, probably in the 7th Century B.C. Spreading rapidly throughout the Mediterranean, coinage provided a medium of exchange for the many cultures in that area. It also became a major artistic medium for the Greeks. Today, the coins of the Greek cities are collected and studied as much for their artistic value as for their importance in historic and economic studies.

The Greeks preferred coinage of gold, silver, or electrum—the natural alloy of gold and silver found in Ionia and elsewhere—rather than copper until fairly late in the B.C. period. Lacking copper coins for small transactions, they were forced to strike extremely small coins of gold or silver to handle daily affairs. We see here, scarce as big as a diamond chip,



Ionian 1/48 stater. 4½ mm.

an electrum 1/48 stater struck in Ionia in the 7th-6th Centuries B.C. Silver pieces even smaller than this are known, often struck from dies carved by master artists.

Occasionally, especially in Sicily and the western Mediterranean area, silver coins of much larger size were struck. Illustrated is a silver dekadrachm from Syracuse, carved by the master artist Euainetos, who signed the dies. Struck in the period 406-387 B.C., this and similar issues commemorated the defeat, in 413 B.C. of the great Athenian expedition against Syracuse. The Euainetos dekadrachm is often regarded as the most beautiful single coin in history.

Roman Coins

The Romans and other non-Greek inhabitants of Italy began issuing coins for local trade some time around the 4th Century B.C. They used cast copper coins at first, rather than gold or silver, and since copper was relatively low in value their early coins were extremely large. The coin illustrated is a "tripondius" or "three-pound" piece, made ca. 241-222 B.C. It weighs more than 22 ounces, much too heavy for convenient use. Once the Romans came into contact with the Greeks in southern Italy, especially during the war against Pyrrhus in the early 3rd Century B.C., they found that the copper coins were not acceptable to the Greek merchants—and therefore not acceptable to Roman soldiers. A silver coinage was swiftly devised, though it seems not to have circulated much in Rome itself before about 267 B.C.



Unique specimen showing Zodiac Wheel, from Roman Egypt. 33½ mm.



Mercury in Gemini. 35½ mm.



The Sun in Leo. 33½ mm.



Sestertius struck by Domitian, showing triumphal arch. 35½ mm.



Venus in Cancer. 33½ mm.



Saturn in Capricorn. 33 mm.



Jupiter in Sagittarius. 33½ mm.

By about 211 B.C., after several experiments, a standard silver coin called a "denarius" began to circulate in Rome. Originally worth ten of the old one-pound copper pieces, it remained a major denomination for almost 450 years. We see here the finest known portrait denarius of Brutus, struck by him around 42 B.C.; the obverse shows his portrait, while the reverse shows two daggers and a liberty cap with the legend EID.MAR., commemorating the assassination of Julius Caesar.

The other Roman coin illustrated is the reverse of a sestertius (one-fourth of a denarius, made of brass) of the Emperor Domitian: Struck about 94 A.D., it shows the triumphal arch at Rome known as the Porta Triumphalis. The Romans used their coins for propaganda purposes in many cases, since the message upon them would reach many people in a short time.

Astrological Types

Throughout the ancient world there was a great interest in astrology, which was often reflected upon the coins. The greatest series of astrological types was struck on the copper drachmae of Roman Egypt in 144/145 A.D. in honor of the beginning of a new Sothiac Cycle (the Sothiac Cycle was the 1460-year period at the end of which the solar and calendar years were back in phase). Some of the coins in this series show various types of Zodiac Wheel with different planets and gods (the specimen shown is unique); others, comprising twelve basic types, show the individual Zodiac signs, each in conjunction with its proper planet for the start

of the new Sothiac Cycle. Illustrated here are five pieces from the series: Mercury in Gemini (Hercules and Apollo), Venus in Cancer, the Sun in Leo, Jupiter in Sagittarius, and Saturn in Capricorn.

Another great Zodiac series of coins was struck in India under Jehangir Shah (1605-1627). All in gold and all rare, the coins show the individual signs of the Zodiac against a large sunburst—in Indian symbols. The bull is a humped zebu, and Aquarius is represented by a monkey. Aside from our set of them (not shown), I know of only one other complete set in America; the third set known to have been in this country was stolen recently and melted down for bullion by the thieves. Thus do rare coins get rarer!

African "spear-money," in use until fairly recently. Length 92 mm.

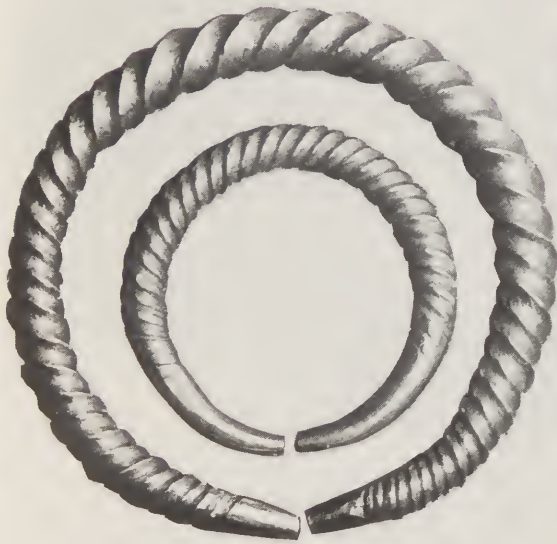


Gold ducat from Vienna, 1529. 17 mm.



Engraved silver piece from the Netherlands, 1573. 26½ mm.

Silver piece cut from a bowl, siege of Landau, 1702. 55½ mm. x 47½ mm.



Irish gold ring money from the 4th-3rd Centuries B.C. 27½ mm. 45 mm.



Copper ten-centimes piece, by Napoleonic garrison, 1814. 35½ mm.

"Necessity Pieces"

Non-Coin Money

In many cases, especially among primitive societies which had not yet developed the technology necessary for coining, other forms of precious metal served as media of exchange, usually passing by weight. We see here three examples of such items: two specimens of Irish gold ring money from the 4th-3rd Centuries B.C.; and a copper "mimbass," or spear-money, used until relatively recent times by the Yaounde tribe in the French Cameroons. Some societies used items other than metal for trading; one example close to home is the wampum used by the American Indians and even, for a while, by the colonists in Massachusetts.

Almost as soon as coinage began, salaries, wages, prices, etc., began to be expressed in terms of it. The accumulation of cash early became an obsession as well as a necessity. In warfare, cities began to be captured through bribery; Philip II of Macedon (the father of Alexander) is reported to have said that he could capture any city with a big enough access road to bring a mule-load of gold up to the gates. Indeed, nearly all cities taken by attackers in antiquity fell to bribery rather than force. It thus became imperative to continue paying soldiers within a besieged city.

Throughout the Renaissance period and on down until recent times, special coinage issues have continued to be put out by besieged forces to pay their troops. Often extremely crude due to haste

and circumstances, these "necessity pieces" form a fascinating record of the social and economic side of European warfare.

Shown here are four pieces from our collection: a gold ducat from Vienna, struck during the siege by the Turks in 1529; an engraved silver piece, value 10 sols, from the siege of Haarlem in the Netherlands in 1573 (note the skull and the bored expression on the face of the besieged soldier); a silver piece, stamped with the value of 4 livres, 4 shillings, cut from a silver bowl during the siege of Landau in 1702; and a copper ten-centimes coin, struck at Antwerp by the Napoleonic garrison during the siege by the Allies in 1814.



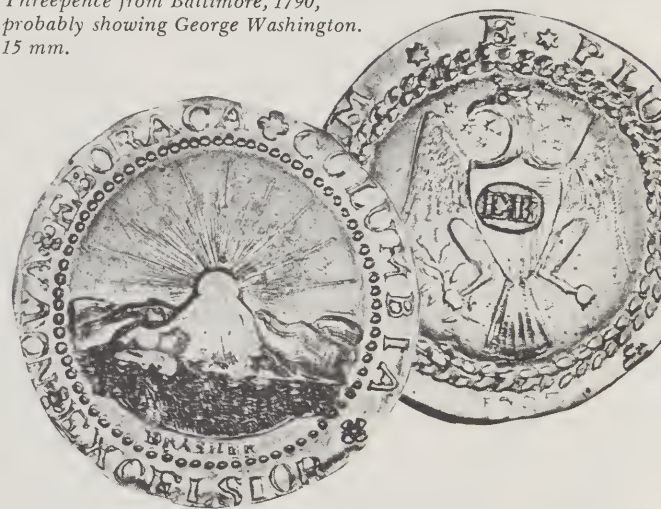
Cecil Calvert's silver fourpence, 1658.
17 mm.



"Long worm" shilling struck in Annapolis, 1783. 22 mm.



Threepence from Baltimore, 1790,
probably showing George Washington.
15 mm.



Unique Brasher doubloon with stamp
on bird's body, ca. 1787. 28½ mm.

American Colonial Coins

In America in the period between the establishment of the early colonies and the opening of the first U.S. Mint in 1792, the need for coinage led many colonies and even private individuals—governors or silversmiths—to strike issues. These begin with the coins of Massachusetts in 1652, the most famous issue being the "Pine Tree" series (not shown). Started during the English Civil Wars of 1652, the later issues—the Pine Tree series was struck from 1667 to 1674—still bore the date 1652 in order to pass as if struck before the accession of Charles II to the throne and the re-establishment of English control. (Loyalty to the throne required the use of British coinage, but England in the post-Cromwell period had more urgent problems

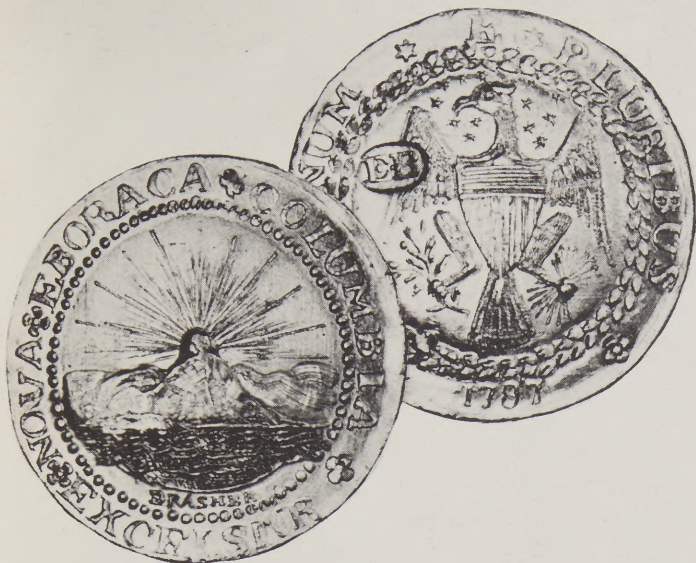
than supplying currency to its colonies.)

In 1658, Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, tried to solve the need for currency by having a series of issues struck in England and imported to America; we see here the silver fourpence, or groat, from that series.

Many and varied issues made their appearance throughout the colonies in the next hundred years. In the period immediately preceding the opening of the Mint, several issues of great interest were struck. We show two of them here of special interest to Marylanders: the "long worm" shilling of J. Chalmers of Annapolis, struck in 1783 (another die had a much shorter worm between the birds); and the silver threepence struck in Baltimore in 1790 by Standish Barry, a silversmith, showing what is generally thought to be a portrait of George Washington on the obverse.

American Private Gold Issues

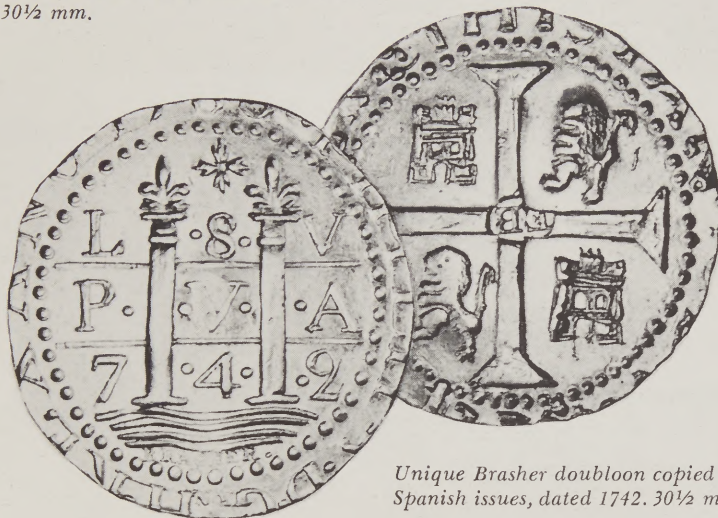
In 1787 in New York, a goldsmith named Ephraim Brasher, a friend of George Washington, began striking gold coins from dies of his own manufacture to help relieve the gold coin shortage in the new nation. Apparently very few were made. There are only seven or eight known Brasher "doubloons" in existence today; all but two are of a single type, showing a sunrise over a mountain and harbor on the obverse and an eagle on the reverse. In addition to his name on the dies, Brasher struck all his pieces with a counterstamp of his initials, EB. In all but one specimen the counterstamp appears on the eagle's wing.



Brasher doubloon in notable condition.
30½ mm.



Gold double zecchino of Pope Paul III,
from dies carved by Cellini. 25 mm.



Unique Brasher doubloon copied from
Spanish issues, dated 1742. 30½ mm.



From the German Ruhr, 1923, with a
face value of 50 million marks. 32½ mm.

... And Inflation Money

Inflation has odd effects upon coinage. Precious metal coins are usually the first to disappear, being held as protection because of their intrinsic value. With the advent of paper money, inflation became a more serious problem since as much currency as desired could be printed for little more than the cost of paper and ink.

The time and place where such inflation seems to have reached the worst levels was Germany following the First World War. The paper issues worth more than 1 million marks are fairly common, showing how little the mark was really capable of buying. We illustrate here, with foreboding, a brass "coin" from the Ruhr, struck in 1923, with a value of 50 million marks. The obverse shows a man with his liver being torn by a vulture, in reference both to the Prometheus myth and to the destructive effects of inflation.

Beauty in Coins

The art history side of coin collecting, especially of pieces from Europe during the Renaissance, may be illustrated here by the gold double zecchino of Pope Paul III (1534-1549). The dies for this rare and valued piece were carved by Cellini. Other coins exist in that period for which dies were designed by Leonardo da Vinci and Leone Leoni. In spite of rarity and price, such coins are probably the least expensive genuine works of these artists available today. Many artists in that period worked on commission to the various rulers and Popes as coinage designers, just as many—such as Calvino—did some of their earliest creative work in the development of medals in imitation of Roman coins.

The two known Brasher specimens not of this type are a "half-doubloon" now in the Smithsonian and our unique "doubloon" copied from the Spanish issues of Peru, dated 1742 and signed with Brasher's name.

Private gold issues were not illegal until 1882 in America, and there were several other major series of them: the Bechtlers in Carolina during the 1830's; Reid in Georgia in the early 1840's; and the vast series of types struck in Utah, Colorado, Oregon, and California following the gold strikes of 1848 and lasting until a regular U.S. Mint began functioning in San Francisco in 1854. (Gold dust was scarcely a convenient form for currency.) Some gold issues continued to appear down to about 1880, mostly very small denominations to satisfy the great demand for change.



Whitehall, Johns Hopkins' birthplace.



As a young man.



Clifton, his summer home. Opposite: at age 40.

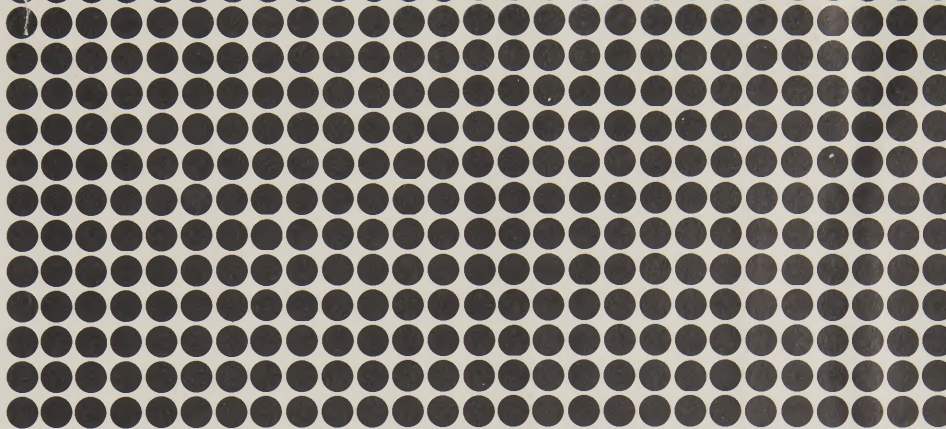
All photographs from the University Archives.



In later life.



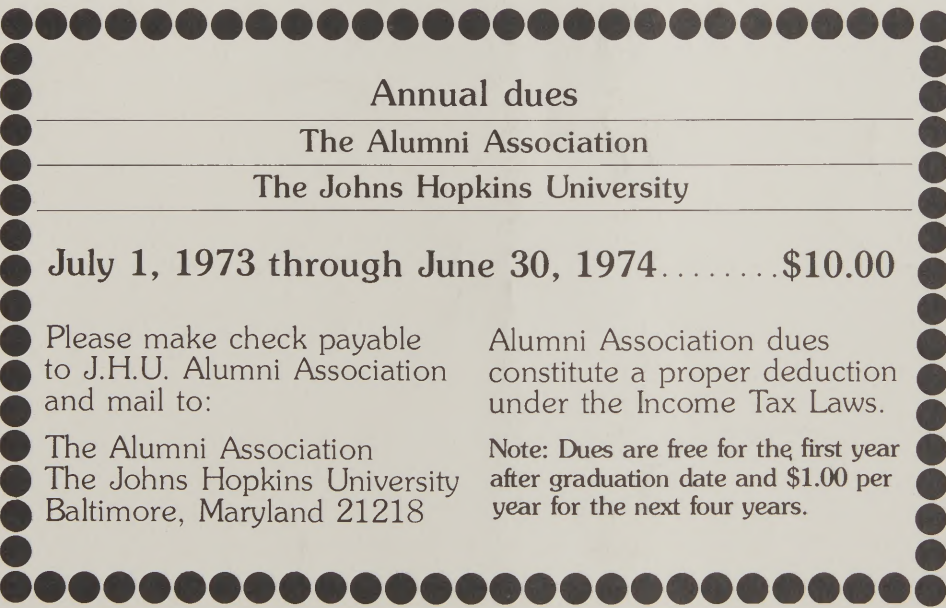
The first graduating class of his university.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is our final call for 1973-74 dues to the Alumni Association. We are \$15,000.00 behind last year's total. Without your support, our significant contribution of student financial aid to all schools of the University (\$38,000.00 in 1973, more than 50% of our operating budget)

is in jeopardy. So is our ever-increasing assistance to Johns Hopkins on behalf of student life both on and off campus. So are the burgeoning programs of our branches throughout the country. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please do so now. Everybody benefits.



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Alumni Association dues constitute a proper deduction under the Income Tax Laws.

Note: Dues are free for the first year after graduation date and \$1.00 per year for the next four years.

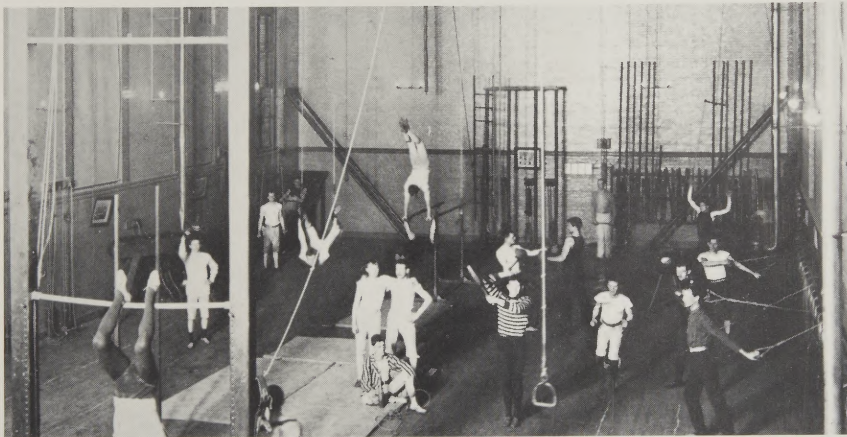
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Alumni Calendar



The first Hopkins gymnasium was built in the summer of 1883 and formally opened in December of that year. Photograph courtesy of University Archives.

Alumni Association Dinners

February 28: Southern Florida (Miami), Pres. Steven Muller. March 4: Pittsburgh, Provost Harry Woolf. 5: Northern Ohio (Cleveland), Harry Woolf. 6: Michigan (Detroit), Harry Woolf. 7: Colorado (Denver), Harry Woolf. 16: Virginia (Charlottesville), Steven Muller.

January 2-31: Art Exhibit: "Selected Anatomical Drawings," Leon Schlossberg. Turner, 9-5 weekdays.

7-21: Hopkins' Minimester.

19-22: Evening College Registration.

20: Oils by Bennard Perlman, Eisenhower, 9-6 daily.

21-22: Homewood Registration, 9-3PM.

29-30: Conference for Corporation Executives, "Focus on Latin America," SAIS.

February 1-28: Collection of Paintings and Drawings of Abraham Lincoln. Turner, 9-5 weekdays.

2-3 Shiver Hall Concert Series, flautist Jean-Pierre Rampal and Robert Vey-

ron-Lacroix. 7:30PM.

8: Peabody at Hopkins. String Ensemble under the direction of Berl Senofsky. Eisenhower, 12N.

10: Lecture, Prof. Amir Jahanbani, "Persian Painting: Past and Present," Eisenhower, 7PM.

10-March 1: Paintings by Nasser Ovissi, Contemporary Persian Artist. Eisenhower, 9-6 daily.

14, 21, 28, March 7, 14: "Pioneers of Modern Painting," a film series written and narrated by Kenneth Clark. Manet, Cezanne, Monet, Seurat and Rousseau. Shaffer, 4 PM.

22: Annual Commemoration Day Ceremonies, Homewood Campus, Shriver, 3PM.

27: Alvin Ailey City Center Dance Theater, Shriver, 8PM.

27: Kennedy Institute Discovery Series. "Hyperactivity: Meds or Mod," Panel discussion, 1-3PM.

9: Ars Antigua de Paris Concert, Shriver, 8PM.

Varsity Athletic Schedule

Basketball—January 5-6: Tournament at Randolph-Macon. 10: Widner. 12: Moravian. 15: Western Maryland. 17: at Gettysburg. 19: at Haverford. 23: at Loyola. 26: at Muhlenberg. 29: Towson State. 31: at Lebanon Valley. February 2: at Drexel. 6: at Navy. 7: Ursinus. 9: Dickinson. 16: at Western Maryland. 18: at Franklin & Marshall. 20: Loyola. 23: Washington College. March 1-2: playoffs at Lebanon Valley.

Wrestling—January 12: UMBC. 16: at Delaware. 22: at Lebanon Valley. 26: at Haverford. 30: at American University. February 2: Towson State. 6: Western Maryland. 16: Swarthmore-Widner-Ursinus at Ursinus. Feb. 22-23: MAC Championships at Delaware Valley.

Swimming—January 12: Delaware & American University at Delaware. 15: at Navy. 18: Ohio University. 26: at Dickinson. February 2: at LaSalle. 9: West Chester. 13: Maryland. 16: Franklin & Marshall. 22-23: Mason-Dixon Championships at Towson State. March 1-2: MAC at Widner.

Fencing—January 12: George Mason, Lafayette. 16: at Montclair State. 17: at Yale. 18: at Bernard Baruch. 18: at Seton Hall. 19: at Army. 26: Penn State, William Patterson. 30: Maryland. February 2: at Muhlenberg. 9: at Stevens Institute. 16: North Carolina State, Haverford. 23: at Drew. March 2: MAC Championships at Lafayette 9: MACs at Seton Hall.

Homecoming 1974

Saturday, May 11. Classes ending in 4 or 9. Lacrosse opponent—University of Maryland, 1973 NCAA Champions.